



# rECovery Community Meeting #2 Rebuilding and the Environment Final Report

November 10, 2016

Table facilitation during the meeting

On November 10th, residents, community members, and stakeholders of the Greater Ellicott City area met at Roger Carter Community Center to: engage in community dialogue, learn from a presentation by an EPA representative, and share ideas for rebuilding a stronger and more resilient Ellicott City. The meetings all focused on rebuilding with an emphasis on resilient infrastructure and flood mitigation. This meeting was the second in a series of four and had a special additional focus on the environment.

Throughout the evening, participants were able to share their thoughts and feelings on the recovery process and learn about the County's response and the process moving forward. Participants engaged in facilitated group discussions and used keypad polling to provide instant feedback.



Statements added to the "What I Love about Ellicott City" poster

## How long have you lived, worked or regularly visited (shopped, dined, worshiped) in Ellicott City?

I don't live, work, or regularly visit Ellicott City

17% 2. Less than 5 years

10% 3. 5 - 10 years

17% 4. 11 - 20 years

54% 5. More than 20 years

## What is your relationship to Ellicott City? (press all that apply)

52% 1. I live there

20% 2. I work there

11%I own a business there

77% 4. I shop there

5. I worship there

43% 6. I own property there

20% 7. Other

Do you have an Ellicott City Address?

77% 1. Yes

23% 2. No



#### How often do you visit Old Ellicott City?

- 49% 1. Daily I live or work there
- 23% 2. I visit weekly
- 3. I visit 2-3 times per month
- 13% 4. I visit every few months
- 5. I visit a couple of times a year
- 2% 6. I visit rarely

### How important is it to you to rebuild Old Ellicott City?

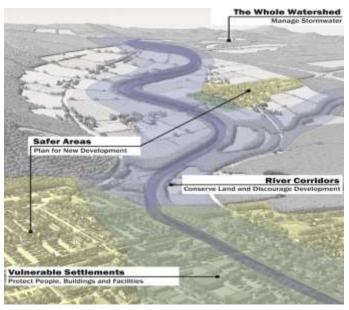
- 91% 1. Very Important
- 2. Moderately important
- 3. Slightly important
- 4. Not at all important



Participants discussing project ideas for Ellicott City



A table taking through the meeting's discussion items



EPA watershed approach to planning

Kevin Nelson, former senior policy analyst with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the Office of Sustainable Communities, presented EPA's tools for Flood Recovery and Resilience. Based on work in two Vermont communities, the EPA developed a Flood Resilience Checklist to assess local plans, policies, and regulations.

Full report and Flood Resilience Checklist available at: <a href="http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/smart-growth-">http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/smart-growth-</a> implementation-assistance-project-summaries#vermont

#### Contacts:

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#### Compelling & Applicable Ideas for EC Recovery: THEMES from discussion around EPA presentation

- Stormwater management through stricter regulations, green infrastructure, retention, etc.
- Better upstream and upland water management
- Utilize multi-tier approach involving all levels of government
- Have Howard County complete the EPA flood checklist
- Stricter policies on future development that lessens negative impact

#### **Project Idea Generation**

Project Ideas for how to rebuild Ellicott City as a model, resilient city have been collected from the County's senior staff, a group of engineers and designers, the Flood Work Group, CAG members, and experts on economic recovery and historic preservation. Project ideas have also been gathered at each of the four community meetings. The ideas are organized by pillar and categorized as either part of a long-term process or as a potential short-term, ready-to-go strategy. Participants and anyone with a project idea to help make Ellicott City a model, resilient city are invited to submit a Project Idea at www.ecstrong.org through December 31.

#### **Final Polling Results**

Who do you think has a responsibility for reducing to help the environment and the rebuilding flooding risk? PRESS ALL THAT APPLY

| 63% | 1. | Federal Government                                     |
|-----|----|--|
| 83% | 2. | State of Maryland                                      |
| 93% | 3. | Howard County Government                               |
| 80% | 4. | The people in the area affected (myself, my neighbors) |
| 30% | 5. | Other  |

What are things I'm ready to commit to doing

|     |    | process? (press all that apply)                           |
|-----|----|---|
| 67% | 1. | Volunteer my time to clean up the streams or storm drains |

Landscape my property to accommodate stormwater

Install a rain barrel(s) at my home or business

Stay involved in the master plan process

Donate to organizations working to rebuild Ellicott City

6. Prepare a household flood plan/flood proof ground floor

17% 7. Other

#### **NEXT STEPS:**

- Stay engaged in the Master Plan process in 2017
- Participate online at www.ecstrong.org

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